

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently Amended). An isolated hyperthermostable protease, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a functional equivalent of said hyperthermostable protease in which one amino acid residue to 5% of the amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:1 are mutated and said functional equivalent possesses hyperthermostable protease activity.

2 (Currently Amended). An isolated hyperthermostable protease, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 or a functional equivalent of said hyperthermostable protease in which one amino acid residue to 5% of the amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:5 are mutated and said functional equivalent possesses hyperthermostable protease activity.

Claims 3-6 (Cancelled).